Trains operating from Rishikesh

† 4770. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rail network in Uttaranchal is for the names sake only and no addition has been made in the work accomplished around the year 1930;

(b) whether the Mail/Express trains are not operated directly from Rishikesh station due to lack of operation facilities there, though that station is the terminal point for reaching four major religious Dhams of India, namely Badrinath—Kedarnath—Yamunotri—Gangotri and the same is also located at the centre of access to four border districts; and

(c) whether Government would start some mail/express trains directly from Rishikesh station after enhancing operational facilities there, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRJ. O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The rail network in Uttaranchal is about 356 route km. During the last 10 years, new line from Rampur-Lalkuan, of which about 18 kms. falls in Uttaranchal, has been constructed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

India-Indonesia Rail Agreement

4771. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Indonesia have signed an agreement to build a rail line and a port terminal worth $ 260 million, in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

South Sumatra province, in exchange for coal, timber and crude oil;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the agreement reached between the two countries; and

(c) by when the work on this project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No agreement has been signed between India and Indonesia in this regard. However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Communication of Republic of Indonesia alongwith South Sumatra Provincial Government (SSPG) PT. Bukit Assam, MMTC Limited & IRCON International Ltd. for taking up projects in South Sumatra province of Indonesia, for design, development and construction of major infrastructure & port development works, which include:

- Major infrastructure and development works for rail link to Tanjung Api Api; and
- Port terminal at Tanjung Api Api.

The total cost of the project is likely to be about US$ 260 million. The above projects are to be undertaken as per following probable financial mechanism;

- Counter Trade arrangement against import of coal and other products;
- Part funding by Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah or other funding agencies to be arranged by the Indonesian side and Indian side to assist.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.